

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Immediate Release***

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**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - August 27, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced today that Alvaro Obeso-Valenzuela was sentenced to serve forty-one months in federal prison for a violation of the Bulk Cash Smuggling provision of the USA PATRIOT Act and for being a Deported Alien Found in the United States. In addition to the prison term, Obeso forfeited the \$159,000 he was attempting to smuggle out of the United States.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Stephen R. Cook, who prosecuted the case, Obeso attempted to smuggle the cash from the United States to Mexico, concealing it in wrapped bundles within the speaker cavities of his car. Agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) discovered the cash during a search of Obeso's car at the border. The search was preceded by a tip from a Los Angeles narcotics task force that Obeso was en route to Mexico with the hidden money. Subsequent to his arrest, investigators learned that Obeso had been previously deported from the United States to Mexico under the alias "Alberto Perez."

United States Attorney Lam said, “It is important not only that smugglers and money launderers serve prison terms, but that we dismantle their organizations by seizing their money. The PATRIOT Act has given us an effective tool to accomplish these goals.”

**DEFENDANT**

ALVARO OBESO-VALENZUELA, a/k/a “Alberto Perez”

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE**

Bulk Cash Smuggling, in violation of Title 32, United States Code, § 5332(b)(2)

Deported Alien Found in the United States, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, § 1326

**AGENCY**

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security